

*Quaker*Action



AFSC facilitates dialogues on controversial issues

Appealing to hearts and minds this election year

Reflections on peace, reconciliation, and justice in Africa

Canoe journey helps Tribal people renew cultural ties



**American Friends
Service Committee**

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What's new on **afsc.org**

Iraq News in Context

Our staff puts the daily news in context and offers insights that often elude the mainstream media. Another feature is an online companion to AFSC's "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit.

www.afsc.org/iraq

Militarism and Queer Youth

Our new resource kit, written by and for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth, has advice about military recruiting, student rights, the Selective Service, and more...

www.afsc.org/lgbt/ym

Opening Doors to Democracy

Young Pittsburgh artists have worked with the public at summer neighborhood events to create a collage of images of democracy. This is one of the follow-up events to AFSC's community listening projects.

www.afsc.org/ListeningProject/

Trade Matters

Get involved in our new Trade Matters campaign and learn how trade agreements affect workers, immigrants, and local democracy.

www.afsc.org/tradematters

On the cover

Participants in AFSC's vigil for peace and justice in Copley Square Park (Boston) near the Democratic National Convention. See related stories on pages four and five.

Cover photo by Pat Westwater-Jung.

Corrections

In our previous issue, the Just Among Friends column (page 19) mentioned an article in Parade magazine about a mountaineer who was injured in Nepal. The mountaineer, Greg Mortenson, was actually injured in Pakistan.

Also, the photos on page 12 ("A buffalo you can take to the bank") should have been credited to Ann Morrell.



McDowell/Trochoud



Jeff Smith

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Who we are

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. Its work is based on the belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.

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Bridges of respect

AFSC facilitates dialogues on controversial issues

As the issues grabbing the national spotlight become increasingly contentious, it seems that people are talking at each other instead of with each other—if they're talking at all.

AFSC has a long history of helping people hear one another, from diplomats on opposite sides of conflicts to communities polarized by racial tension.

Today, AFSC is reaching out to communities throughout the country and encouraging people to talk about some of the most sensitive issues currently making the rounds: same-sex marriage and what physical and economic security mean in increasingly turbulent times.

AFSC programs in five U.S. cities, with support from the Ford Foundation, conducted the **Listening Project on Mobilization for Peace and Security**. The project allowed participants to air their views on a range of topics, from peace and democracy,

to terrorism and violence, and what constitutes security in today's world.

Specially trained interviewers talked with a wide range of people from diverse communities. Participants included African Americans, immigrants, youth, and military families.

While responses were varied, many people noted that the "war on terror" alone could not achieve true peace and security. One participant in Akron, Ohio, said: "My fear is that, for this generation, there will be no jobs, and then there is no security of any kind."

Follow-up activities have included public forums as well as town hall and smaller community meetings. The project also has sparked an artistic flame.

In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, "Opening Doors to Democracy" allowed people to express their views on democracy by creating collages on doors purchased by AFSC.

And in Tucson, Arizona, AFSC and the Borderlands Theater Company are co-producing a series of free community improvisational theater performances that will give voice to the viewpoints expressed during the listening phase.

Is marriage a matter of faith or law or both?

This past summer, AFSC posed that question to a diverse group of about 500 people from nearly every U.S. state and several other countries during the innovative, online **Peace Building Dialogues**. For two weeks, participants shared their perspectives and convictions, listened to each

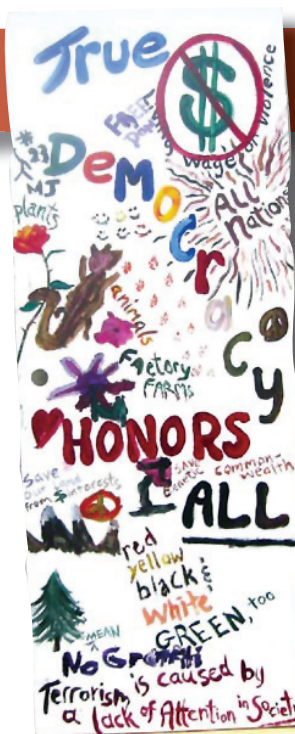
other, and discussed how to co-exist despite their differences and disagreements.

The dialogues were part of AFSC's campaign, "Peace Building in a Time of Cultural War," which seeks to bring a non-polarizing spiritual voice to the marriage debate.

"I was really moved by numerous 'small instances' in which people touched one another's humanity across profound differences," notes Kay Whitlock, AFSC's National Representative for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Programs, who helped organize and monitor the dialogues.

As follow-up to the online dialogues, AFSC programs in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Portland, Oregon, are developing face-to-face **Peace Building Dialogues**. AFSC also has asked dialogue participants if they would help organize dialogues in their own communities. Resource materials for developing and facilitating dialogues will be produced.

To learn more about the AFSC Listening Project, log onto www.afsc.org/ListeningProject/. More information about the Peace Building Dialogues is available at www.afsc.org/build-peace.



Photos: Pittsburgh's "Doors to Democracy" project allowed people to express their views artistically.

Photos: Paul Wahrhaftig



Bearing witness

During the past few months, AFSC has helped stimulate debate about core peace and justice issues. Those efforts have been highlighted by a poignant traveling exhibit and dynamic organizing activities during both political conventions. The stories and pictures on these two pages illustrate some of the extraordinary work done by staff and volunteers nationwide. They provide a glimpse of AFSC at its best.

Eyes Wide Open exhibit

In May 2003, not long after the United States claimed the war in Iraq was won, four people met in AFSC's Chicago office intent on showing another reality: the true costs of the war.

During the next ten months, that small group grew to a steady dozen or so, a mix of AFSC staff and volunteers, among them an acclaimed filmmaker, an editor, graphic designers, and dedicated activists who also happen to be dogged researchers. The result was "Eyes Wide Open: Beyond Fear, Towards Hope: An Exhibition on the Human Cost of the Iraq War," a powerful testament in the Quaker tradition of speaking truth to power.

The multimedia exhibit skillfully shows that the reasons for going to war—that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction, Saddam Hussein was involved in the 9/11 attacks, and the war would make the United States safer—were not justified. Events during the past year have shown that none of these claims were true.

The ongoing toll of war

"Eyes Wide Open" also lays bare the financial and human costs of the Iraq war.

When it opened, the exhibit had 504 pairs of combat boots bearing the names of U.S. soldiers killed; as of mid-September 2004 that number had climbed to more than 1,000. And the number of Iraqi civilians who lose their lives climbs daily.

"Eyes Wide Open" opened in Chicago on March 18, 2004, the day before the anniversary of the start of the Iraq war. Since May, when the boots and wall with the names of Iraqi civilians killed in the war were displayed across the street from the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., media from around the world have covered the display.

Growing power

In the six months since it was launched, "Eyes Wide Open" has traveled throughout the Midwest, the East Coast—including stops at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions—and the Southeast.

Along the way, the power of "Eyes Wide Open" grows. At each stop families and friends gather around boots bearing names of their loved ones to mourn, add mementos to the ex-

hibit, and bear witness to the costs of an unjustified war.

More information about "Eyes Wide Open" is available online at eyes.afsc.org.

Boston Social Forum

What kind of future do the people of Boston want for their city? How about people throughout the United States or, for that matter, the world? Just what is our vision of a better society?

These were some of the questions addressed during the Boston Social Forum (BSF), which began right before the Democratic National Convention in July. AFSC's New England Regional Office in Cambridge, Massachusetts, took a lead role in organizing the BSF.

"We were among the first major organizations to sign on with significant financial and staff contributions," explains Joseph Gerson, director of the Cambridge office's Peace and Economic Security Program. "We did extensive outreach to justice and peace organizations in the Boston area to bring them into the planning of the BSF."

The BSF was part of a movement that began in 2001. To date, four

Photos: (top) Part of the "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit on display in New York City's Central Park.

(right) Demonstrators filled the streets of New York City at the start of the Republican National Convention.



AFSC appeals to the heart and mind this election year



More information about the Boston Social Forum is available online at www.afsc.org/newengland/bsf. To find out more about the most recent World Social Forum, log onto www.wsfindia.org/index.php.

World Social Forums have taken place. The forums include presentations on a broad range of cultural, economic, identity, and political issues. The BSF was one of the regional forums organized in anti-



Photo: Pat Westwater-Jung

designed to inspire, educate, and mobilize young people toward social action. AFSC also was instrumental in organizing tracks on criminal justice, immigration, and the privatization of water.

In addition, AFSC's "Eyes Wide Open" traveling exhibit provided a poignant reminder of the true cost of the Iraq war.

Summing up her experience, Ana Amaral, an immigrant rights organizer with Massachusetts Jobs with Justice, said, "This is a place where you can dream."

cipation of the 2005 World Social Forum.

International conference

The centerpiece of the BSF was an international peace conference put together by AFSC and the European Network for Peace and Human Rights. Participants came from numerous countries, including Britain, India, Korea, Pakistan, Palestine, and South Africa.

AFSC added to the global scope of the BSF by facilitating the participation of Ruth Selma Herrera of the Nicaraguan Consumers Network, who spoke about the privatization of water, and Gyung-lan Jung, with Women Making Peace, on how South Koreans view the U.S. presidential election's impact on world peace.

In all, AFSC staff provided leadership for four of the BSF's 18 "tracks" and support for many others. For example, an Active Arts conference within the BSF was

Blue skies

Some thoughts on peace and politics

New York City was abuzz this past summer with activities organized by peace and justice activists during the Republican National Convention. As the convention ended, Elizabeth Enloe, director of AFSC's New York Metropolitan Regional Office, shared the following reflections:

On this last day of the convention [September 2]...it is late afternoon in New York City. The air's humidity has lessened and the sky is again blue.

In Union Square, just a few blocks away [from the AFSC office], hundreds of people are talking, praying, remonstrating, debating, remaining vigilant, petitioning, selling T-shirts, and posting their views on posters and sidewalk art. Veterans are reading the names of the 978 U.S. soldiers and some of the Iraqi civilians [killed in the Iraq war]. There are press and police, and youth and veterans of many wars who advocate for peace. The young men of Iraq Veterans Against the War have been talking since 11 a.m., as have Military Families Speak Out.

Yesterday, AFSC's "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit filled the south aprons of Union Square, drawing thousands of viewers. We shared these two days at this city's back and front yard.

"Eyes Wide Open" continues throughout Labor Day, allowing us to engage in a profound way with many individuals of all walks of life, and to build relations.



Elizabeth Enloe

Reflections on peace, justice, and reconciliation

The writer, Jonis Davis, and 25 others from the U.S. traveled to Rwanda, South Africa, and Mozambique this past April as part of an AFSC-sponsored study tour. They made connections with some of their African counterparts and came home to educate and mobilize U.S. audiences around African concerns. The tour was part of AFSC's Africa Initiative, which is working in Africa and the United States on urgent issues affecting the continent, such as economic security, peace, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Rwanda was not what I expected. I was not prepared for the physical beauty of the country, its organization; the sweetness and sincerity of the people; their commitment to truth and reconciliation; the dominant feeling of hope. As Fatuma Ndagiza, Minister of Unity and Reconciliation said, "With the whole population traumatized and affected, only by restorative justice and reconciliation can society heal and rebuild."

Rwandan Quakers run Peace House in Kigali, the capital, where some of the programs focus on widows and orphans and HIV/AIDS-affected people. AFSC has supported Quaker youth development, and

workshops on alternatives to violence and trauma healing. AFSC also helped improve Peace House's communication system.

We visited an income-generating project where women use small loans to buy and sell goods in the local market. They can earn enough to pay school fees for their own children and for orphans they have absorbed into their families. We also heard from genocide survivors, who reminded us of the horror of ten years ago.

In Kibuye on the shore of beautiful Lake Kivu, we heard from youths who have organized an AIDS Club that educates peers about HIV and how to prevent it, and the care of people who are already ill. And we learned about the revival of a pre-colonial indigenous institution called *gacaca*. Victim and accused face each other before their community, settle the facts of the dispute, and find a solution involving restitution or the like.

In **South Africa**, we and our hosts celebrated gains made during the ten years since the first free elections, but also saw a huge need to eliminate continuing economic apartheid, worst in the rural areas.

In Pretoria, my two colleagues and I visited SaferAfrica, an institute



Peace House in Kigali, Rwanda

that works on disarmament and good governance. We talked to John Rocha of Angola 2000, which works on small arms "mapping" of where the weapons actually are (the country is "awash with weapons") and on national reconciliation and reconstruction. When a teacher in Huambo, Angola, was killed in a random crime, Angola 2000 broadcast the story on their radio program, stimulating a broad revulsion and citizens turning in weapons.

In two villages in **Mozambique**, Chitunga and Dororo (both in Manica Province), AFSC has supported recovery from the drastic floods of a few years ago. Our work there includes water projects such as the brick-lined channel we saw that directs water from a mountain spring into the village. The water flows into the cattle dip, which villagers restored and that is essential to the health of the cattle.

We admired a fish pond stocked with tilapia (six were built last year)



Economic co-op members (Rwanda)

and appreciated the deep wells—five new ones each year—that along with the new piped water system provide clean and abundant water to the villages.

AFSC donated school desks to both villages and to all the schools in Manica. Prior to AFSC's intervention, no schools in Manica had desks or benches.

Comparing these two villages with counterparts without such water systems, we saw how AFSC's work increases people's skills, capacity and self-confidence, and improves their material standard of living.



Children at AFSC-donated desks in Mozambique



A fish pond stocked with tilapia, Mozambique

AFSC is putting special attention and resources into its Africa work because we see that the continent has grave problems.

AFSC's Africa Initiative adds up to heightened support for work being done by Africans in Africa, and U.S. awareness and understanding of their conditions and work.

In the U.S., we tend to think only about the daunting challenges in Africa—poverty, sickness, AIDS, wars—but that's because we don't know much about its strengths, its

resilience, its people, resources, and beauty. That's ultimately the lesson for those of us from the United States—to come to know and support the lesser known Africa. Africans need and appreciate strong allies committed to peace with justice, and that's who we are.

Additional reflections on the study tour, as well as more information about AFSC's Africa Initiative, are available online at www.afsc.org/africa/new-africa.

Kurarama Campaign Update

AFSC's Emergency and Material Assistance Program has concluded its campaign to assist children orphaned by AIDS, their caregivers, and communities in Mozambique's Manica Province.* The campaign, entitled Kurarama, which means "to live" in the Shona language, collected \$132,000 of materials, the last of which are en route to the region.

Supplies shipped included 5,155 hygiene kits, each of which contained a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, a washcloth, petroleum jelly, and a wide-toothed comb. The kits will be distributed along with food packets at a health fair co-sponsored by AFSC, the provincial government, and local organizations. Three hospitals will be receiving art supplies and 66 mattresses donated by Tempur-Pedic International.

AFSC has been active in Mozambique since its independence from Portugal in 1975. Today, the Integrated Rural Development Program provides intensive support to two isolated communities in Manica Province.

While the conclusion of the Kurarama Campaign marks the end of materials collection for the children of Manica, AFSC will continue its work within the province's communities to improve the quality of life of those who have been touched by HIV/AIDS.

** The UN estimates that more than one million children in Mozambique will have lost one or both parents to AIDS by 2010.*

News from around AFSC



Photo: AFSC staff

YOUTH

Service projects thrive in Atlanta

Atlanta's Help Increase the Peace Project (HIPP) has joined forces with Decision Bridges, an organization that promotes consensus decision making, to form Peace Works for Youth Leaders. To date, more than 65 young people from the Boys and Girls Club of Atlanta, the YWCA, Atlanta Friends School, and other groups have developed community service projects that have included laying sod in a local park and serving meals to the homeless at a free restaurant.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Arizona program pushes for sentencing reform

Arizona leads western states in incarceration rates and the resulting explosion in the prison population has inevitably led to increasing costs. State expenditures on corrections now outpace spending for health services, community colleges, and the Department of Economic Security.

AFSC's Arizona office, working in coalition with other concerned individuals and organizations around the state, is pushing for sentencing reforms that include diverting low-level, nonviolent offenders to community treatment programs, and creating mechanisms to release eligible prisoners into transitional programs. The resultant savings would be redirected to the programs that help prevent crime, such as drug treatment and education. AFSC is joining with other state and national groups in calling for states to get "Smart on Crime" by investing in strategies that work.

For more information, read "Ten Reasons Why Sentencing Reform Makes Sense for Arizona" online at www.afsc.org/az/prisons/sentencing-reform.htm.

IMMIGRATION AND MOBILITY

NJ immigrant advocacy work gets a boost

AFSC's Immigrant Rights Program in Newark, New Jersey, has gotten a welcome boost in its efforts to engage immigrant communities in statewide advocacy efforts. A two-year, \$200,000 grant from the Four Freedom's Fund will allow the program to continue increasing immigrants' civic participation and advocacy efforts on state and local issues that affect them. The Four Freedom's Fund helps organizations that serve immigrants to hire more staff, form coalitions among themselves and with civil rights groups, and promote the civic participation of newcomers to the United States. The fund was created by a consortium of grant makers in response to federal government crackdowns on some immigrant communities in the wake of September 11.

PEACEBUILDING AND DEMILITARIZATION

Africa activists brush up on their skills

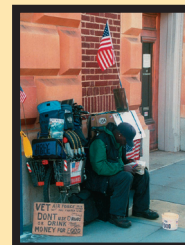
Bill Sutherland, a former AFSC Quaker International Affairs Representative (QIAR) for Africa, remains a hero and mentor for many at AFSC. In recognition of his legacy to the cause of nonviolence, this summer the Peacebuilding Unit's Africa Program named its first annual Institute for Africa Advocates the "Bill Sutherland Institute."

People from 20 U.S. states and seven countries attended the week-long gathering in Washington, D.C., this past June. The conference focused on increasing the organizing skills and broadening the knowledge base of those who work on issues of U.S. policy toward Africa. Among the presenters were Marie Clarke Brill, National Coordinator of the JubileeUSA Network; Africanist intellectual Horace Campbell; Bill Fletcher, President of TransAfrica; The Honorable Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, Deputy Minister of Health for the Republic of South Africa, and Fatuma Ndangiza, Minister of Unity and Reconciliation of Rwanda.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Art exhibit focuses on criminalization of the homeless

In San Francisco, AFSC's Homeless Organizing Program and the Emergency and Material Assistance Western Center collaborated with the Meridian Gallery for the third time on an art exhibit and speakers series. Robert Terrell's large format photographs of homeless people surrounded Donald Whitehead of the National Coalition on Homelessness, Paul Boden of the San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness, and civil rights attorney Osha Neumann, as they discussed "The Criminalization of Homeless People." Youth and service workers explored "What Do Homeless Teenagers Want?" AFSC programs often combine art and organizing to put a human face on complex issues.



TAKE ACTION

Help hurricane victims now



Cash contributions are urgently needed to assist the people of Haiti. The country continues to reel from the deadly effects of Hurricanes Ivan and Jeanne, which have left hundreds dead and more than a quarter-of-a-million homeless.

AFSC operates a clinic and economic development programs in the Grand' Anse region that was hit by Ivan. At press time, staff had traveled to the northern part of the country to assess the damage caused by Jeanne in the city of Gonaives.

AFSC has worked in Haiti since 1989. The AFSC clinic in Irois is the primary health care facility for more than 40,000 people in the Grand' Anse. AFSC's development work in Haiti provides community-based groups with the financial and technical support to combat erosion, reverse deforestation, and improve the quality of local livestock. To help hurricane survivors you can:

Give online at www.afsc.org/haiti/

Give by phone at 1 (888) 588-2372, ext. 1

Mail your contribution marked "Haiti aid" to:

AFSC Development Office, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102-1403

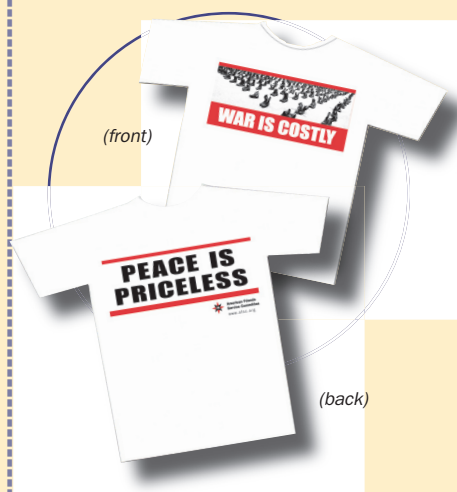
Buy a Peace Pack and support fair trade

Fair trade means that producers receive a fair price for their product, helping them build a better future for themselves and their communities. At its best, fair trade is also about sustainable development through the formation of co-operatives that provide equal opportunities for women and promote environmentally friendly techniques.

One concrete way to support fair trade is to buy a Fair Trade Peace Pack from AFSC's Economic Justice Program. Each pack costs \$40 and includes a drawstring backpack made by former sweatshop workers in Texas, 12 ounces of organic coffee, three bars of glycerin soap from a workforce development program, note cards produced at a domestic violence shelter in Chicago, a water bottle that calls attention to how this most basic of necessities is being turned into a commodity, and a Trade Matters educational packet.



For ordering information, log onto www.afsc.org/tradematters, or call Darlene Gramigna at (312) 427-2533.



Peace is Priceless

Created to support AFSC's "Eyes Wide Open" traveling exhibit about the human and economic costs of the Iraq war (see story on page four), the "War is Costly, Peace is Priceless" T-shirts are an attractive way to put your convictions on display. Proceeds benefit AFSC's work for peace, justice, and human dignity worldwide. The all-cotton T-shirts are available in M, L, XL, and XXL. Price: \$15

Order from AFSC Literature Resources Unit, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102; phone: (215) 241-7048 (or toll-free 1-888-588-2372, ext. 2); fax: (215) 241-7275; online: www.afsc.org/resources

Tempered by faith, tested by fire

WWII smokejumpers still working for peace and justice

In July 2004, surviving members of Civilian Public Service (CPS) Unit 103 gathered in Hungry Horse, Montana, to share fellowship, renew their commitment to peace and justice, and honor individual and institutional benefactors (including AFSC, the Mennonite Central Committee, and Brethren Service).

Kay Whitlock, AFSC Community Relations staff, attended the reunion on behalf of AFSC and shares the following reflections.

Growing up in southern Colorado, I dreamed of adventure. This included being a smoke-jumper, one of those courageous people who parachute from airplanes into otherwise inaccessible terrain threatened by wildfire. They were my heroes then—and still are.

So I enthusiastically accepted the invitation of Tedford Lewis, member of St. Louis Friends Meeting, to join a gathering of World War II conscientious objectors who were smoke-jumpers in Civilian Public Service Unit 103.

Now in their 80s and 90s, this vibrant mix of Quakers, Brethren, Mennonites, Methodists, Assemblies of God members, and others remains filled with conviction and compassion, with a penchant for wry observation, and an endless supply of laughter.

As young men, they saved the new smokejumper program from being mothballed when the United



States entered the war. Enlistments and the draft had depleted the small ranks of experienced smokejumpers. Recruiting produced no new candidates who could pass the rigorous physical, but CPS worker Phil Stanley saw a terrific opportunity. A call went out to existing CPS units, and CPS 103 was formed in 1943 and continued until 1946.

When I asked several men about being conscientious objectors, they described the decision as a natural outgrowth of their religious convictions, which were nurtured daily by family and their faith community. Nonviolence was a way of life and

sustained them in difficult times.

The men of CPS 103 have been risk-takers all their lives. They are, as

Tedford put it, “ordinary men who do un-ordinary things,” in order to follow the injunction to “love thy neighbor as thyself.”

In accepting the award and a financial contribution to AFSC, I said that we should thank these men for their courage, compassion, and decency. A phrase that appears on the award says it best: *They Also Serve Who Hearken to a Different Drummer.*

You men of CPS 103 have served our country well. We accept the baton of nonviolence you have passed to us and, in turn, will pass it to new generations.

Photos: (top) Tedford and Margie Lewis; smokejumpers of CPS Unit 103.

CPS camps: A brief history



The Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 provided for alternative service for conscientious objectors who were assigned “work of national importance under civilian direction.” Led by the historic peace churches (the Church of the Brethren, Religious Society of Friends, and Mennonite Church), many churches joined together in 1940 to form the

National Service Board for Religious Objectors (NSBRO), which coordinated the civilian public service program. The AFSC was responsible for the administration of seventeen CPS camps and more than thirty special service units that provided an alternative service program for 3,400 men between 1941 and 1946.



A time to heal

Canoe journey helps Tribal people renew cultural ties

Summer is the gathering time for northwest Tribal people, the time for the Pacific Northwest Tribal Canoe Journey.

In preparation, there are meetings to attend, tides tables to consult, routes and take off times to plan, and fundraising efforts to help pay expenses.

There also are gear and supplies to gather and prepare, regalia to make, Canoe Blessings and Cleansing Ceremonies, and cold water safety training, among the many preliminary activities.

The payoff for this investment of time, energy, and money comes from the journey's most profound gift to participants: a chance for individuals and communities to heal.

This past August, the 2004 canoe journey came to an end near Ladysmith, British Columbia, with a celebration hosted by the Chemainus First Nation. More than 4,500 people, about half of whom were youth, attended the welcoming of the canoes.

The celebration included feasts, dancing, storytelling, and presentations by each Tribal canoe group. It culminated as much as three weeks of traveling from various directions for 53 canoes representing many Tribal Nations, with 17 from Wash-

ington. Along the 290-mile route, nearly 20 communities hosted the travelers.

As it has in the past, AFSC provided significant support. For example, AFSC staff and interns attended and documented the frequent planning meetings, co-sponsored fundraising trainings (with The Potlatch Fund), relayed information between canoe families and the many host communities along the route, and developed a canoe journey guidebook.

"AFSC supports the canoe journeys not only because of their healing aspect, but also because they have involved thousands of people in grassroots community organizing and economic entrepreneurship, using methods based in traditions," says Jeff Smith, director of the AFSC's Pacific Northwest Indian Program in Seattle, Washington.

A way back

Begun in 1989, the journeys continue, in part, to help communities heal from such issues as suicide, and drug and alcohol abuse. They are a way for many to find their way back to winter ceremonies, songs, language, art, and self determination.

The journeys also help indigenous communities reunify and find



Clinton McCloud, skipper of the Puyallup Tribe's canoe, stands to formally request permission to leave.

new family members who were scattered, lost, or torn apart because of crisis, substance abuse, or displacement.

Mary Andrews, who went on the journey with her daughter, summed up her experience in a letter she sent to AFSC:

Thank you from our family for the chance for my 13-year-old daughter, Karissa Chico, and me to be involved in the canoe journey.

We were invited to pull canoe with the Nisqually, Suquamish and Sokomish canoe families. They all had different leadership styles and canoes and paddles. Their [cultural] protocol was also unique. It was all a new and exciting experience for us.

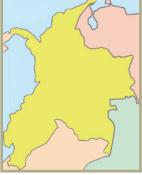
To overcome the pain of pulling canoe four to eight hours a day, it was inspiring and energizing when we would sing or chant. Splashing water helped too!...

I hope to continue to be a part of supporting the extended canoe family on their future work.

For more information about the canoe journey, log onto community-2.webtv.net/bensuecharles/PADDLE-JOURNEY2001 and the AFSC Pacific Northwest Indian Program website www.afsc.org/pacificnw/pnindian.htm.



Chief Frank Nelson (Musfgamaku Tsawataineuk) requests permission to land.



Women waging peace

In Colombia, AFSC helps women build a better future

Colombia has been ravaged by years of civil war. Conflict among leftist guerillas, right wing paramilitary groups, and the regular army has displaced approximately three million people in this nation of 44 million.

The United States is a major contributor to the conflict, providing the Colombian government with more than \$1 billion in aid—80 percent of it military—making Colombia the largest recipient of U.S. military aid in the western hemisphere.

Encouraged and funded by the United States, indiscriminate aerial spraying of herbicides to eradicate the coca plant also destroys agricultural crops and pollutes local water supplies.

Commenting on a recent visit to Colombia, AFSC Board Chair Paul Lacey said, “Virtually everyone we met lives in personal danger, including our own AFSC staff, whose office in Bogotá can show no identifying sign and must have a security camera at the door.”

Yet even in this tense environment, people have the resilience to



work toward a better future. In the southern department of Putumayo, AFSC’s Andes Program helps women develop the skills they need to strengthen their communities and work for peace.

A series of workshops has brought together women from the majority Mestizo community along with indigenous women and Afro-Colombian women, who trace their descent from the slave plantations of the country’s west coast.

Popular education workshops

Workshop participants have received training in responding to the trauma of living in a conflict zone and aiding victims of sexual abuse. They have also been trained in literacy, computer use, management, and accounting that will allow participants to develop income generating projects.

The workshops are rooted in the popular education model developed by Brazilian Paulo Freire in which “all teach and all learn.” The women who take part in the workshops then return to

their communities to share the skills they have learned. To date, participants have organized and led more than 25 workshops in their own communities.

Participants report that they and their communities have a new sense of solidarity and hopefulness.

“I feel more secure and self-confident,” one participant said. “I know my rights and I feel good—enabled—and I am going to fight to keep up with my education. I am more interested about what goes on in the community. I want to help to ensure continuation of education in the seven local schools.”

Staff member Amanda Romero Medina summarizes the program by saying, “In the middle of the armed conflict and the confrontations that daily take the lives of many inhabitants of the region, the holding of every workshop presents a challenge to the ostracism imposed by the armed actors on women and the population in general. This is their chance to leave their houses, talk about their own problems, talk about their anguish, sadness, and joy. This is, we think, a real alternative—peace building in the middle of the war.”

Photos: Many women in the Putumayo region have benefited from AFSC’s popular education workshops.

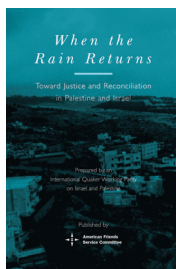


Photos: AFSC staff

Cause and effect

Three AFSC-related books look at the origins and costs of war

To meet human needs in the wake of war—and to learn to resolve human problems without resorting to violence. These goals stand at the center of AFSC's mission. But to move toward them we need the deepest understanding of both the causes and consequences of war. Culture, geography, history, economics, and politics all contribute to the intractable situations that draw human beings into violent conflict. This month's recommendations (each with an AFSC connection) draw on many great minds to help us work through the questions associated with war, its origins, and its aftermath.



When the Rain Returns: Toward Justice and Reconciliation in Palestine and Israel

(Prepared by a Quaker Working Party on Israel and

Palestine, AFSC, 2004, 326 pp., \$15, paperback; study guide: \$5)

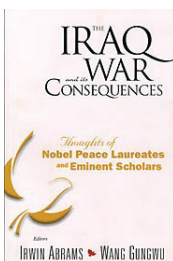
When the Rain Returns tells the story of a three-week trip to Israel, Palestine, and neighboring countries by an International Quaker Working Party. The members of the delegation (including current and former AFSC staff and committee members) met with more than 90 individuals from the region—Israelis, Palestinians, Syrians, Egyptians, Lebanese, and others—listening to their widely divergent personal histories and deeply felt political views.

The book describes the Working

Party's experiences on the trip and the passionate deliberations that followed, as they struggled to make sense of what they had seen and heard. *When the Rain Returns* is both troubling and hopeful—bringing the pain and problems, as well as the dreams and aspirations, of the Middle East into vivid relief.

The book and its excellent study guide are invaluable resources to encourage discussion and dialogue about the complex issues in this region.

When the Rain Returns and The Iraq War and Its Consequences are available from AFSC's Literature Resources Unit, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102; phone: (toll-free) 1-888-588-AFSC (2372); website: www.afsc.org/resources



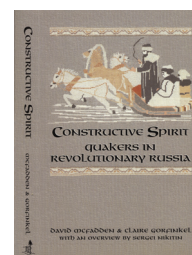
The Iraq War and Its Consequences: Thoughts of Nobel Peace Laureates and Eminent Scholars

(Irwin Abrams and Wang Gungwu, editors, World Scientific,

2003, 464 pp., \$34, hardcover; \$19, paperback)

Each of this book's thirty-four contributors begins from a slightly different starting point. Some are individuals who received the Nobel Prize (the Dalai Lama, Jody Williams, David Trimble, et al), some—like AFSC general secretary Mary Ellen McNish—represent organizations that have been honored with the award, and others are scholars who have dedicated their lives to comprehending and ending war.

These essays provide a profound exploration of this war and its effects on Iraq, the United States, and the future of international relations.



Constructive Spirit: Quakers in Revolutionary Russia

(David McFadden and Claire Gorfinkel, Inten-

tional Productions, 2004, 232 pp. \$16.95, paperback)

Two former AFSC staff members have given us a wonderful chronicle of AFSC's earliest relief efforts during the beginning years of Bolshevik rule. Spanning the tumultuous years from 1917 to 1931, *Constructive Spirit* is filled with stories of remarkable women and men (especially the women). These volunteers, mainly American and English, brought something of the Quaker spirit of love and reconciliation to the newly formed Soviet Union, reaching out to a people building a new society but burdened by war, famine, and political strife.

This book, with its lively and stirring account of people in the service of humanity, will give both inspiration and pride to any reader touched by the ideals of Quaker Service.

If you have recommendations you would like to share, please send the title of the item and a short paragraph about what makes it commendable to: recommendations@afsc.org.



What I learned on my summer vacation

A message from AFSC General Secretary Mary Ellen McNish

In August, my husband Dave and I vacationed by visiting countries around the Baltic Sea. I brought an international phone card with me but promised myself I would only use it to check in with my family. I found the rest and reflection I needed, but I also came to that sort of realization that one can only have experientially.

My work frequently takes me abroad and time and time again in the past two years I have thanked the peace movement outside of the United States for its unwavering opposition to the war in Iraq and the moral support that its members have lent to U.S. peace

groups. But it was in visiting cities such as Riga, St. Petersburg, and Hamburg that I was reminded that Europeans know too well the horrors of what we Americans oppose in theory.

In city after city, I saw the evidence of the devastation of the Second World War. In St. Petersburg I could see swaths of post-war buildings and remnants of destroyed national treasures. On my return home, I read that one-and-a-half million people died here during the Nazi siege—a figure that surpasses the total deaths suffered by the U.S. and British Commonwealth forces for the entire war.

Millions living today in Europe remember the carnage, the starvation, and the loss. I could only wonder how our leaders in Washington might feel about fighting “preemptive” wars if they remembered the battle of Los Angeles or had been told the stories of how the family suffered during the siege of Chicago.

Suffering is often a great teacher of compassion. While 9/11 was an unbelievable and painful tragedy, I wonder if we in the United States have grown callused by our lack of experience with the utter destruction of war.

Mary Ellen McNish



REFLECTIONS

Conferences for Diplomats

AFSC facilitates off-the-record dialogues

Shortly after the Ford Foundation broadened its philanthropic work in 1950, several large grants were made to the AFSC. The bulk of these funds were used to address post-war problems in Europe and a small grant was designated for an international seminar.

However, AFSC changed course and the seminar idea was developed further until it resulted in the AFSC Conferences for Diplomats. The conferences allowed mid-level diplomats to talk to one another off-the-record and experience a valuable supplement to normal official contacts. The first conference was held in Clarens, Switzerland, in the summer of 1952. Eventually, conferences were held in numerous locations in Europe, Asia, and Africa. By 1974, when the program was laid down, more than 2,000 diplomats had participated in the conferences.



The first group of diplomats met in Clarens, Switzerland, in 1952.



FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Gifts with Heart and Hope

Do you have too much “stuff?” As the holiday season approaches, perhaps you are thinking about others in your life you want to remember—but they may have an abundance of life’s material possessions, too.



Through a “gift card,” the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) offers a meaningful way to recognize the importance of your loved ones. For each \$35 gift, you’re entitled to a card (see picture) called “Guardian of Nature” which includes an inspirational quote and a message that you’ve made a contribution to AFSC in the name of the recipient.

Goats give milk for Haiti’s children

Haiti’s Grand’ Anse peninsula is one of that beautiful country’s poorest and most remote regions. A milk goat gives children in a needy family an additional source of protein. AFSC provides families with Nubians and Boer goats as well as feed and training in animal care.

\$75 can provide a Haitian family with a milk goat.



Work camps teach young people the joy of service

From the beginning, AFSC has involved young people in its programs. We continue to provide service opportunities by sponsoring work camps in Latin America, China, and in Native American communities in the United States. While offering their help to communities in need, the young people immerse themselves in a different culture and have a life-changing experience.

\$200 provides scholarship aid for work campers.

Water buffalo improve the harvest in Laos

Sturdy draught animals remain a lynchpin of economic security and food production in rural societies around the world. Few animals are sturdier or more reliable than the water buffalo, which can plow, assist in clearing land, and pull heavy loads.



Since 2000, the American Friend Service Committee has founded “animal banks” for water buffalo in seven Cambodian villages. The banks are village cooperatives that distribute calves to members of the group, allowing those who otherwise could not afford to have a draught animal to have a buffalo of their own.

\$100 can help provide a Cambodian family with a water buffalo calf.

Mango trees prevent erosion and provide nutrition

In the last 40 years, Haiti’s forests have been diminished from 30 percent to just 5 percent of the country’s land area. Mango trees prevent hillside erosion and provide an additional supplement to a family’s diet.



\$50 will allow a family in Haiti to have its own mango trees and prevent erosion.

A way to help people worldwide

From Maine to Mozambique, Kosovo to Kansas City, Colombia to Chicago, Hanoi to Haiti, AFSC is at work. Programs for economic stability, civil rights, reconciliation, education, and human dignity for all carry forward an 85-year-old mission. Finding modern expression for Quaker values is the hallmark of AFSC.

\$35 supports all of AFSC’s work around the world.

To buy Gifts with Heart and Hope:

Call toll free 1-888-588-2372, ext. 1

Go online to www.afsc.org

Be a Friend for their Future



Last year, 158 people made a bequest to the AFSC. In the last five years, another 794 people from all walks of life have become "Friends for the Future" by telling us that they have remembered AFSC in their estate plans.

AFSC values all bequests, whether large or small. Together, these gifts ensure the stability of AFSC's ongoing witness for peace, justice, and human dignity.

By remembering AFSC in your estate plan, you can reduce

estate taxes and continue your commitment to Quaker service. Best of all, it's quite easy.

Ways to include AFSC in your estate plan

- Include AFSC as a beneficiary in your will.
- Include AFSC as a beneficiary in your living trust.
- Name AFSC as the beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement plan.
- Name AFSC as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy.

Photos: above: Ann Morrell
top right: AFSC; bottom right: M'Annette Ruddell



"This is a very small bequest. Other people with more dollars and cents (and sense !?!) may be able to fund the grand thing. I have to think small. Most people want to give something more permanent or obvious. But I'm thinking of stamps or scotch tape or some grease for wheels to ease things in the effort."

JO-MARIE RUDDELL
1917-2000



To learn more about becoming a "Friend for the Future" call Mike Valoris or Patrick Manion of our Gift Planning office at 1-888-588-2372, ext. 3, send an e-mail to GiftPlanning@afsc.org, or check the box on the enclosed reply envelope.



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